

The following claims are presented for examination:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a first plurality of protocol data units at a first input of a protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node;

receiving at **[[a]] said** protocol-data-unit excisor a metric of a queue in **[[a]] said** first congestible node; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more **of said first plurality of** protocol data units ~~en route to said first congestible node~~ based on said metric of said queue in said first congestible node.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a second plurality of protocol data units at a second input of said protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said second input are en route to a second congestible node;

receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a metric of a queue in **[[a]] said** second congestible node; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more **of said second plurality of** protocol data units ~~en route to said second congestible node~~ based on said metric of said queue in said second congestible node.

4. (currently amended) A protocol-data-unit excisor comprising:
a first input for receiving a first plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node;

a ~~second input receiver~~ for receiving a metric of a queue in **[[a]] said** first congestible node; and

a processor for selectively dropping ~~, at said protocol-data-unit excisor,~~ one or more **of said first plurality of** protocol data units ~~en route to said first congestible node~~ based on said metric of said queue in said first congestible node.

5. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 4 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

6. (currently amended) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 4 further comprising:

a third input for receiving a second plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said third input are en route to a second congestible node;

a **fourth input receiver** for receiving a metric of a queue in **[[a]] said** second congestible node; **[[and]]**

[[a]] wherein said processor is also for selectively dropping ~~at said protocol-data-unit excisor,~~ one or more **of said second plurality of** protocol data units **en route to said second congestible node** based on said metric of said queue in said second congestible node.

7. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first plurality of protocol data units at a first input of a protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node;

~~observing at a protocol-data-unit excisor the flow of protocol data units en route to a first congestible node;~~

estimating **in said protocol-data-unit excisor** a **first** metric of a **first** queue of protocol data units in said first congestible node based on said ~~flow~~ **first plurality** of protocol data units; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more **of said first plurality of** protocol data units *en route* to said first congestible node based on said **first** metric ~~of said queue of protocol data units in said first congestible node~~.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

receiving a second plurality of protocol data units at a second input of said protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said second input are en route to a second congestible node;

~~observing at said protocol data unit excisor the flow of protocol data units en route to a second congestible node;~~

estimating in said protocol-data-unit excisor a second metric of a second queue of protocol data units in said second congestible node based on said ~~flow~~ second plurality of protocol data units; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, a one or more of said second plurality of protocol data [[unit]] units en route to said second congestible node based on said second metric ~~of said queue of protocol data units in said second congestible node~~.

10. (currently amended) A protocol-data-unit excisor comprising:

a first input for receiving a first plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node; and

~~a transmitter arranged to observe the flow of protocol data units en route to a first congestible node; and~~

a processor for estimating a first metric of a first queue of protocol data units in said first congestible node based on said [[flow]] first plurality of protocol data units, and for selectively dropping one or more of said first plurality of protocol data units en route to said first congestible node based on said ~~metrics of said queue~~ first metric.

11. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 10 wherein said processor for selectively dropping one or more protocol data units decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

12. (currently amended) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 10 further comprising:

a second input for receiving a second plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said second input are en route to a second congestible node; and

~~a transmitter arranged to observe the flow of protocol data units en route to a second congestible node; and~~

a processor for estimating a second metric of a second queue of protocol data units in said second congestible node based on said [[flow]] second plurality of protocol data units, and for selectively dropping one or more of said second plurality of protocol data

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units *en route* to said second congestible node based on said second metric ~~of said queue~~
~~of protocol data units in said second congestible node~~ .